

AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVICES NEWSLETTER

The U.S. Embassy is transmitting the following monthly newsletter via its warden system as a public service to U.S. citizens in Mongolia. Please feel free to disseminate this message to U.S. citizens in your organizations or to other Americans you know.

Security Message for U.S. Citizens

Presidential elections will be held in Mongolia on 26 June 2013. Planned and spontaneous demonstrations and protests have occurred in Mongolia, especially in Ulaanbaatar, during the run-up to elections and after the announcements of election results in past years. The United States Embassy in Mongolia reminds U.S. citizens that even gatherings intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid areas of demonstrations and protests, if possible, and to exercise caution when in the vicinity of any demonstrations. U.S. citizens should stay abreast of media coverage of local events related to the elections, and they should be aware of their surroundings at all times.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution and Consular Information Sheet for Mongolia can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada or, for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens residing or traveling in Mongolia are reminded to register with the U.S. Embassy by entering your travel itinerary and contact information at <https://step.state.gov/step/>. In case of difficulties registering online, please contact the U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar by phone at (976)7007-6014 or by email at UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov. Routine American Citizens Services at the U.S. Embassy Ulaanbaatar are available on Mondays and Thursday, except on U.S. and Mongolian holidays, by appointment only.



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Please visit the Embassy's website at <http://mongolia.usembassy.gov/service.html> for more information on available services and on how to make an appointment. U.S. citizens may also send inquiries to UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov. For emergencies during Embassy working hours, please contact the Consular Section by phone at (976) 7007-6014. For emergencies after Embassy working hours, please contact the Embassy Duty Officer at (976) 9911-4168.



American Citizen Visa Hours

The U.S. Embassy in Ulaanbaatar is pleased to announce a new service for Americans residing in Mongolia. Beginning in July, the consular section is hosting American Citizen Visa Hour on Tuesday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 p.m. During this hour, American citizens may ask questions regarding the application procedures for a U.S. immigrant and non-immigrant visas. American Citizen Visa Hour is designed for information purposes only and not as an opportunity to submit a U.S. visa application or to re-adjudicate a prior visa decision. Please arrive no later than 4:30 p.m. Appointments are not necessary. Upon entering the Consular Section, please pass through the required security screening and then enter the American Citizen Services waiting room. This is a service we provide only for American citizens, and a U.S. passport will be required for entry into the Consular Section. Citizens of other countries, including Legal Permanent Residents of the United States, are requested to explore other avenues for receiving immigration-related information.

Inquiries about specific cases should be submitted via email at UlaanbaatarNIV@state.gov. Replies are generally sent within three business days. Please note: American Citizens Visa Hour is not held when the Embassy is closed.

Ask the Consul

"Ask the Consul" is a new feature in which Consul Chief Daniela Zadrozny will answer frequently asked visa questions, as we know that Americans are often approached about visas or have visa-related questions themselves.

What is 214(b) and what does it mean when someone is refused under 214(b)?

When consular officers talk about 214(b) what they are referring to is section 214(b) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act, which is the set of laws consular officers follow when adjudicating visas. Section 214(b) states: "Every alien shall be presumed to be an immigrant until he establishes to the satisfaction of the consular officer, at the time of the application for a visa, and the immigration officer at the time of application for admission, that he is entitled to non-immigrant status."

What does this mean? It means that by law, visa officers are required to assume that anyone who applies for a nonimmigrant visa will stay in the U.S. permanently—that they will not return to their home countries. It is then up to each individual applicant to demonstrate to the visa officer at the time of the interview that this is not so. Applicants must show that their trip is actually temporary, not permanent. Or, in more technical terms, applicants have to overcome the presumption of immigrant intent.

So, how does an applicant do this? How does an applicant show that he or she is qualified for the visa they are applying for? Contrary to widespread belief, visa officers do not make a decision based on one single factor. Think of a visa adjudication as a giant puzzle. What the officer is trying to do is assemble as many bits of information as possible in the short time we have with our applicants, to put together a picture of the applicant's situation. It is this bigger picture, the overall situation of the

the officer then vets against the law we adjudicate under, to determine if the applicant qualifies for the visa he or she applied for.

Three of the major factors we consider in order to do this are:

1. The purpose of travel – what is the applicant planning to do in the U.S.? Basically the officer is trying to determine if the proposed trip makes sense for the applicant.
2. Finances – is the applicant able to pay for what he/she is planning to do in the U.S. without

having to violate visa rules or resort to illegal or criminal activity

3. Ties to the home country – what will motivate the applicant to return to their home country after a temporary stay in the U.S.? Generally we look at family, economic, and social ties.

That is why it is so important to answer the questions we ask as honestly and clearly as possible. The applicant needs to help us put the puzzle together quickly and correctly. Many applicants tell us what they think we want to hear or what they have been told they should say, but they do not actually answer our questions. This makes it harder for us, because on top of trying to gather information, we also have to decide if the applicant is trying to conceal something by evading the question, if they misunderstood the question, or if they are simply “performing” a prepared script.

Embassy Contact Information

American Citizen Services
 Embassy of the United States
 11th Micro District
 Big Ring Road
 Ulaanbaatar 13, Mongolia
 Tel: 976-7007-6001
 Fax: 976-11323-788
 After-hours
 or emergency number: 9911-4168
 E-mail: UlaanbaatarACS@state.gov
 - or -
 American Embassy Ulaanbaatar
 4410 Ulaanbaatar Place
 Washington, DC, 20521-4410

Fourth of July Event

When: Saturday, July 6th, 2013

Time: 2PM to 4:30PM

Where: Yavuukhulan Park

Cost per ticket:

TG 10,000 bought in advance

TG 12,000 bought at the gate

Price includes a soft drink, hot dog and hamburger, potato salad, etc. Tickets are available at Sachers Café or Millie’s Café.

Contact:

Sachers Café: 7011 4734

Millie’s Café: 11330338

For further information, call Birigitte Cummings at 9909-0669. This event is not sponsored by the U.S. Embassy.



Upcoming Holidays

July 4– Independence Day

July 11-12- Nadaam Celebrations

Travel Warnings and Alerts

[Honduras](#) 06/07/13

[Niger](#) 06/13/2013

[Chad](#) 06/11/2013

[Turkey](#) 06/04/2013

[Iran](#) 05/24/2013

[Mauritania](#) 05/21/2013

[Cote d'Ivoire](#) 05/16/2013

For additional information about these travel warnings and alerts, please go to this site:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html